

REMARKS

Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 35-41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for allegedly being unpatentable over Bunz in view of Martinie. Claim 42 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Bunz, Martinie and Teinturier. Claims 43 and 44 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Bunz, Martinie and McLean.

First, the intermediate bone attachment socket 60 of Martinie corresponds to the plastic covering of the present invention, not the inner sliding cup. In fact, the bearing socket 70 is the equivalent to the inner sliding cup. The socket 70 of Martini does not have any depressions on its outer surface. In the present invention, the depressions and the corresponding raised structures are between the inner sliding cup and the plastic covering. In contrast, the similar structural configurations as alleged by the Examiner are located between the element 60 (equivalent to plastic cover) and the acrylic seat 56 (equivalent to the outer metal cup) in Martinie.

Second, unlike the sliding inner cup as presently claimed, the intermediate bone attachment socket 60 does not have depressions on its outer surface, instead, has projections and ribs on its outer surface.

Third, the purpose of having projections and ribs on the surface of the intermediate bone attachment socket 60 is to firmly secure the socket 60 to the acrylic seat 56. In contrast, in the present invention, the main purpose of having a plurality of depressions outside the inner sliding cup is to achieve high level strength with regard to tilting.

Due to the important differences between the two inventions, it would not be obvious for a skilled artisan to combine Bunz and Martini to arrive at the present invention.

The deficiencies of the primary combination of Bunz and Martini are not overcome by the other cited secondary references. Thus, all rejections should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, allowance is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct any fee associated with this filing from Deposit Account No. 50-0624.

Respectfully submitted,

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